1426

3. It shall come into force at once, on such date or dates as the Government may by notification in the official Gazette appoint.

2. *Definitions.*—In this Act unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(*a*) "dowry" means anything paid in cash or kind as a part of the contract of any betrothal or marriage, by the father, mother, or guardian of a bride to a bridegroom, or to his father, mother or guardian and *vice versa*, and includes :—

(*a*) *Dehej;* and

(*b*) price of a bride, but does not include "*Stridhan*" as understood in Hindu Law and "*Mahr*" or dower as understood in Mohamedan Law.

(*b*) "marriage" means a contract or a ceremony for the union of a female and male under any custom or law for the time being in force.

3. *Punishment for accepting dowry.*—Any person who takes dowry shall on conviction be punishable with simple imprisonment which may extend to three months or with fine which may extend to the amount or value of the dowry taken or with both.

4. *Penalty for giving dowry or abetment thereof.*—Any person who gives dowry or abets the taking or giving of dowry shall on conviction be punishable with simple imprisonment which may extend to one month or with fine, which may extend to one thousand rupees or with both.

5. *Procedure for trying offences.*—An offence under section 3 or 4 of this Act shall be non-cognisable and shall be triable by a magistrate specially empowered in this behalf.

6. *Security against false or vexatious proceedings.*—No Court shall take cognisance of any case under this Act unless a complaint is filed and a sum of rupees fifty is deposited therewith as a security against any false or vexatious proceedings.

7. *Notice to show cause.*—No Court shall proceed with a complaint under this Act unless it gives the accused a chance to show cause why he should not be prosecuted under this Act.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Among many communities in this country, there exists an evil custom of taking and offering dowry. As a result of this custom many persons have to pay exorbitant sums to secure bridegrooms for their daughters. Again, in some parts there is regular traffic of selling and buying girls. Under these circumstances, it is necessary to introduce legislation to eradicate this evil custom.

UMA NEHRU.

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547 BILL NO. 30 OF 1951

A Bill to safeguard the quality and purity of food and drugs and to provide for penalties in case of certain offences relating thereto.

BE it enacted by Parliament as follows :—

CHAPTER 1

PRELIMINARY

1. *Short title, extent and commencement.*—(1) This Act may be called the Food and Drugs Act, 19 .

(2) It extends to the whole of India, including the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. *Definitions.*—In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires :—

(*a*) "food" means any article used for food or drink for any person or animal, and includes articles used as components of any such article.

(*b*) "drug" means any article intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of disease in any person or animal, and includes any article (other than food) intended to affect the structure or function of the body of any person or animal, and any article intended for use as a component of the articles in the two categories aforesaid.

(*c*) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act.

(*d*) "regulations" means the regulations made by Government under this Act.

CHAPTER 2

GENERAL PROVISIONS AS TO FOOD AND DRUGS

3. *Composition of food and drugs.*—(1) No person shall add, or direct or permit any other person to add,—

(*a*) any substance to any food so as to render the food injurious to health ; or

(*b*) any substance to any drug so as to affect injuriously the quality or potency of the drug,

with the intent that the food or drug may be sold to the public, or administered to any person or animal in that state.

(2) No person shall sell, or have in his possession for the purpose of sale, any food or drug to which any substance has been so added.

(3) A person who contravenes any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of an offence.